

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of providing liquidity to an investment fund utilizing a liquidity vehicle, comprising:

(a) at least one investment fund wanting to receive liquidity services registering with the liquidity vehicle;

(a)(b) prompting at least one registered investment fund having a net share outflow to offer shares to the liquidity vehicle;

(b)(c) the liquidity vehicle purchasing at least one offered share of the at least one registered investment fund with proceeds of the purchase going to the at least one registered investment fund; and

(e)(d) holding the at least one purchased share in the liquidity vehicle for a period of time.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one registered investment fund is prompted by the liquidity vehicle in ~~step (a)~~operation (b).

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one registered investment fund is prompted by a third party in ~~step (a)~~operation (b).

4. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(d)(e) redeeming at least one of the at least one purchased share from the at least one registered investment fund.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one offered share is purchased in ~~step (b)~~operation (c) prior to the next trading day after the occurrence of an outflow of shares of the same at least one registered investment fund.

6. (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein ~~step (d)~~operation (e) is performed prior to ~~the~~a next trading day following ~~the~~an occurrence of an inflow of shares of the same at least one registered investment fund.
7. (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein ~~step (d)~~operation (e) is performed within five trading days of ~~the~~an occurrence of an inflow of shares of the same at least one registered investment fund on a trading day.
8. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a fee is charged by the liquidity vehicle in connection with the purchase of the at least one offered share in ~~step (b)~~operation (c).
9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the fee is determined through an auction.
10. (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the fee is determined through a ~~dutch~~Dutch auction.
11. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the fee is determined by the liquidity vehicle.
12. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a fee is charged by an entity other than the liquidity vehicle in connection with the purchase of the at least one offered share in ~~step (b)~~operation (c).
13. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time for holding the at least one purchased share in ~~step (e)~~operation (d) does not exceed ~~the~~a period between the ~~sale~~purchase of the at least one share in ~~step (b)~~operation (c) ~~to~~by the liquidity vehicle and ~~the~~a date by which the at least one registered investment fund

has experienced a net share inflow following the salepurchase equal to at least the number of shares ~~sold to~~purchased by the liquidity vehicle in ~~step (b)~~operation (c).

14. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time for holding the at least one purchased share in ~~step (e)~~operation (d) does not exceed a predetermined number of days more than ~~the~~a period between the salepurchase of the at least one share in ~~step (b)~~operation (c) ~~to by~~ the liquidity vehicle and ~~the~~a date by which the at least one registered investment fund has experienced a net share inflow following the salepurchase equal to at least the number of shares ~~sold to~~purchased by the liquidity vehicle in ~~step (b)~~operation (c).

15. (currently amended): A system for providing liquidity ~~to an investment fund~~ utilizing a liquidity vehicle, comprising:

a processor;

a memory in communication with said processor;

a display in communication with said processor; and

an input device in communication with said processor,

wherein the processor stores in the memory registration information received via the input device from at least one investment fund wanting to receive liquidity services from the liquidity vehicle;

wherein said processor prompts at least one registered investment fund having a net share outflow to offer shares to the liquidity vehicle;

wherein said processor causes at least one offered share of the at least one registered investment fund to be purchased by the liquidity vehicle with proceeds of the purchase going to the at least one investment fund; and

wherein said processor causes the at least one purchased share in the liquidity vehicle to be held for a period of time.

16. (currently amended): A system for providing liquidity ~~to an investment fund~~ utilizing a liquidity vehicle, comprising:

means for registering with the liquidity vehicle at least one investment fund wanting to receive liquidity services;

means for prompting at least one registered investment fund having a net share outflow to offer shares to the liquidity vehicle;

means for purchasing by the liquidity vehicle at least one offered share of the at least one registered investment fund with proceeds of the purchase going to the at least one registered investment fund; and

means for holding the at least one purchased share in the liquidity vehicle for a period of time.

17. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing ~~the steps~~operations comprising:

(a) registering with the liquidity vehicle at least one investment fund wanting to receive liquidity services;

~~(a)~~(b) prompting at least one registered investment fund having a net share outflow to offer shares to the liquidity vehicle;

~~(b)~~(c) the liquidity vehicle purchasing at least one offered share of the at least one registered investment fund with the proceeds of the purchase going to the at least one registered investment fund; and

~~(c)~~(d) holding the at least one purchased share in the liquidity vehicle for a period of time.

18. (new): The system of claim 15, wherein a fee is charged by the liquidity vehicle in connection with the purchase of the at least one offered share, wherein the fee is determined through an auction.

19. (new): The system of claim 15, wherein the period of time for holding the at least one purchased share does not exceed a period between the purchase of the at least one share by the liquidity vehicle and a date by which the at least one registered investment fund has experienced a net share inflow following the purchase equal to at least the number of shares purchased by the liquidity vehicle.

20. (new): The system of claim 16, further comprising:

means for performing an auction to determine a fee to be charged by the liquidity vehicle in connection with the purchase of the at least one offered share.

21. (new): The system of claim 16, wherein the period of time for holding the at least one purchased share does not exceed a period between the purchase of the at least one registered investment fund has experienced a net share inflow following the purchase equal to at least the number of shares purchased by the liquidity vehicle.

22. (new): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein a fee is charged by the liquidity vehicle in connection with the purchase of the at least one offered share, wherein the fee is determined through an auction.

23. (new): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the period of time for holding the at least one purchased share does not exceed a period between the purchase of the at least one share by the liquidity vehicle and a date by which the at

least one registered investment fund has experienced a net share inflow following the purchased equal to at least the number of shares purchased by the liquidity vehicle.